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**Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Statement for the Record
H. Res. 140
February 11, 2009**

Betty McCollum
mcc

Madam Speaker: I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 140, which honors John D. Dingell for holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

This resolution pays tribute to a man who has given his life to public service. Prior to Congress, John served with dedication as a Congressional page, National Park Ranger, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and a county prosecutor.

On December 13, 1955, John won a special election to replace his father in the House of Representatives and has been reelected 27 times to represent the families of Michigan. He has served honorably as dean of House of Representatives since the 104th Congress.

I first met Congressman Dingell when I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. It has been a true honor to serve as a representative along with such a distinguished gentleman.

Throughout his tenure in the House, John has fought tirelessly for working families. As a member, ranking member, and chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, he has been a leader in protecting the environment and health of all Americans.

As the Congress looks towards reforming our healthcare system, we must thank John for paving the way by increasing access for family and children. Every year since 1957, John has introduced a bill that would provide national health insurance for all Americans. The passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law in 1997 and an expansion of the program in 2009 could not have been done without him.

John has also been instrumental in the passage of environmental legislation including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

I want to take this time to recognize John's wife Debbie who has been his dedicated partner during his service to our great nation.

Congratulations John. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and yield back the balance of my time.